

Christian Messenger.

A RELIGIOUS AND GENERAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

"Not slothful in business: fervent in spirit."

NEW SERIES. }
Vol. XIII. No. 47. }

HALIFAX, N. S., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1868.

WHOLE SERIES. }
Vol. XXXII. No. 47. }

Poetry.

For the Christian Messenger.

Thy Will be done.

I worship thee, sweet will of God!
And all thy ways adore,
And every day I live I long,
To love thee more and more.

Man's weakness, waiting upon God,
Its end can never miss;
For man on earth no work can do
More angel-like than this.

He always wins who waits on God,—
To him no chance is lost;
God's will is sweeter to him when
It triumphs at his cost.

All that God blesses is our good,
And unblest good is ill;
And all is right that seems most wrong,
If it be his dear will!

When obstacles and trials seem
Like prison walls to be,
I do the little I can do,
And leave the rest to thee.

I have no cares, O blessed will!
For all my cares are thine,
I live in triumph, Lord, for thou
Hast made thy triumph mine.

Religious.

The Bible Union to the Friends of Pure Versions: Greeting.

October, 1868.

Dearly Beloved Brethren and Friends:—
Once more we enjoy the pleasure of saluting you in the Lord. Our names are not new to you. Some of the old standard-bearers are gone,—Cone, Maclay, Colgate—venerable names! They have passed to glory. They have received their reward. With them, we raised the standard of pure versions, and bore it in our youth. We are no longer young, and the standard still lingers in our hands.—Soon we shall go home, and others will occupy our places. Before we go, brethren and friends, we wish to have some plain talk with you.

In all the varying years of the Bible Union we have felt that we are constantly remembered at the throne of grace by multitudes of praying hearts. This gives us confidence and strength. Brethren do not let us be mistaken in this matter. Never omit to mention the Bible Union and its officers and managers when you draw near to Jesus. We need your prayers—prayers of faith and fervor. The Bible Union is the offspring of prayer, and it cannot be sustained without it. And remember, at the throne our objects,—faithful versions of the Sacred Scriptures for the world.

Oh! remember China, with its teeming millions, and the versions which we are there making for the common people. Bear in mind that we need money for the support of Bro. Lord and his assistants, and for a Biblepress for that great country. Pray that the Lord Jesus, by his blessed Spirit, may open the hearts of all who love his truth to aid cheerfully and liberally in these matters. And ask him, humbly, sincerely, and earnestly, to show you what is *your* duty in the case; how much you ought to give, and to give now. And when you feel the conviction of duty, act—act promptly, act zealously, act liberally.

At our anniversary, just closed, Rev. Dr. Murdock, Corresponding Secretary of the American Baptist Missionary Union, addressed us, and urged us to assume the support of the versions made by missionaries in Burmah, Siam, etc. He expressed his hearty sympathy with our principles and objects, and commended the versions made by Baptist missionaries as faithfully translated in accordance with these principles. Nothing, brethren and friends, prevented us from at once assuming the support of such versions but the want of the necessary means. Ponder this matter.—Pray over it, and consider whether it is not the duty of the Bible Union, that is, your duty as its supporters, to furnish the pecuniary aid needed for such a purpose.

We make a special appeal for our revisers.

They need your applications on their behalf. They can not properly perform their duties without the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Oh! pray for them and let your deed accompany your words. Contribute for the support of the revisers, that they may not be hindered in their work.

The Revised Testament! The book is commended by scholars, by pastors, by Sunday-school teachers, by all who are in the habit of using it in the study, the pulpit, the school, and the family circle. But while many thousands read it to their spiritual profit, and the profit of others, many more thousands have it not. Can not, will not you help to furnish it to them? Look at the nature of the demand—the millions at the South both white and colored, who are able to read, or are learning, and who welcome with avidity the pure word of God. Shall any of these appear against you in the last day, because you have omitted to do what you could to send them the word of life?

And then, so many of them need our small books for beginners. No other Society, to our knowledge, furnishes all that is necessary in the form of books, from the Alphabet to the Testament, with every word taken from the Sacred Scriptures; and in this case, every word is from the revised and corrected Scriptures, so as to convey only the inspired truth of God to the learner, and to found education upon duty to God and to man.

And now, brethren and friends, let us ask another question, and take this to the throne. Are you doing all that you can, in your family, among your friends, in your Sunday school, and in your church to have the Revised Testament and the Book of Genesis circulated, read, studied, and believed? Can you not form a club for the purchase of a number of copies? They will thus come to you more cheaply, and you will act in concert in distributing them. Now is the time to help us. We need your aid. We greatly need it. May God incline your hearts to give it, and He will bless you in it.

THOMAS ARMITAGE, *President.*

WM. H. WYCKOFF, } *Cor. Sec's.*

LEAAC WESCOTT, }

C. A. BUCKNER, *Rec. Secretary.*

WM. D. WRIGHT, *Assist. Treas.*

For the Christian Messenger.

From our Ontario Correspondent.

THE ONTARIO CONVENTION. DR. MURDOCH'S SERMON. PAPERS ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION. OUR FOREIGN MISSIONARIES. FIRST CONVENTION OF Y. M. C. A.

Your exchanges will no doubt have already given you condensed reports of the annual meeting of the Baptist Missionary Convention of Ontario, which was held last week in Toronto, but which your correspondent had not the privilege of attending. This Anniversary occasion seems to have been a most interesting and encouraging one. Progress is shown in every department of Christian activity in which the denomination is engaged.—From the report of the Secretary of the Convention as summarized by one of the daily papers, it appears that the number of missionaries employed has been 38, of whom 24 laboured during the whole year, and 14 for shorter periods. The average attendance at the 110 missionary stations has been 7,172, while the Church members number 1,733.—The missionaries have preached 3,846 sermons, made 5,586 pastoral visits, travelled 40,518 miles in the discharge of these duties, and baptized 175 converts; while they have received \$4,217 50 from the Board, and \$4,980 84 from their fields of labor in the shape of salary.

The annual sermon by the Rev. Dr. Murdock had for its theme "The Elements of Ministerial Power." (1 Thess. i. 5.) "For breadth and vigor of thought, chasteness and beauty of diction, earnestness and eloquence of delivery," this discourse is described as having been all that was to be expected. It is, I believe, to be published in the *Can. Baptist*, consequently you will have the opportunity of deciding upon its worthiness to be given wholly, or in part, to your readers.

The Educational Meeting seems to have also been one of deep interest. Two papers read, the one by Dr. Fyfe, the other by Dr.

Cooper, are likewise to be given to the Denomination through their organ. In fact that by Dr. F. is already published. The views therein presented are the result, no doubt, of much observation, much reading, and much thought. The whole subject of ministerial education needs, in the opinion of many, to be carefully reconsidered, and its prevailing, and somewhat stereotyped modes to be thoroughly examined. The painful and alarming destitution of ministers and pastors, not only in our own, but also in other denominations is awakening serious inquiry. Is there not a more excellent way? Rather, are there not other excellent ways neglected, while the one excellent mode prescribed in our Colleges is too strictly and exclusively adhered to! Special men for special work seems to have ever been God's rule of action in carrying on his work. Are there not special works of the deepest and most overwhelming importance in the Master's field, now wholly neglected, or imperfectly done, which might be effectually accomplished by a class of laborers differently trained? Such are some of the questions suggested by the state of the church in its relation to the world and hinted at in this paper.

The Missionary meetings proper, were most interesting. Rev. F. A. Douglas, returned Missionary from the Telogooos, amongst whom our brother Timpany and his wife are now located, was present and contributed largely, from the resources of his personal knowledge and experience, to the interests of the occasion. Extracts from Bro. Timpany's letters since his arrival were read. The following is suggestive.

Mr. Timpany writes from Melloro: "I have seen the heathen, and heathenism is all, and more than all, I had conceived it to be. It is emphatically the service of Satan. But what a change the gospel makes on the Telogooos! I wish you could see and hear some of the native Christians. They are indeed trophies of Divine Grace. When ennobled by Christ within they are men and women every inch. If those Christians who are cold in their zeal for missions were out here for only a week, they would be cured for ever." The income of the Society for the year has reached the respectable sum of \$2,229.

Space and time alike forbid me to do more than merely notice another anniversary occasion, illustrative of the tendency to increased energy and activity in Christian work, which is a hopeful feature of the age. I refer to the First Annual Convention of the Y. M. C. Associations of Ontario and Quebec, which followed close upon the Baptist Convention. It was my privilege to attend this. About seventy delegates from various Associations in the two provinces were present. The occasion was one of the deepest interest. It was good to see so noble a band of young christian soldiers, members of various evangelical bodies, animated by the same constraining power, "the love of Christ, full of zeal and faith and hope, met to encourage one another in their high and holy work. These Societies, as organized auxiliaries of the churches are doing a work, which the churches, as such fail in a great measure to do. The well known christian philanthropist, D. L. Moody of Chicago, was present. His glowing accounts of what is being done by these societies across the Lakes, in rescuing young men from the lowest haunts of vice, and leading them back to sobriety, to virtue, and to God, were well adapted to stir the Christian heart to its deepest depths. The glowing and fervid eloquence of Punshon gave deep interest to some of the meetings. A resolution of fraternal greeting to our sister Associations in the maritime provinces was submitted, with a view to a future interchange of delegates. Much good we trust and believe will result. J. E. W.

For the Christian Messenger.

United States Correspondence.

New York.

Last year, at the meeting of our Convention, a Ministerial Institute was organized, to meet some of the wants of the Baptist ministry of this State. Its first sessions have just closed at Syracuse. They have proved delightful, spiritual, instructive, and of a real practical value. Several subjects came be-

fore us in the form of essays, some of which elicited a great deal of discussion, out of which plans were devised for the resuscitation of some of our churches that are decaying, and to promote the growth of the denomination in the State. It has long been felt by very many Baptists that our weak churches were sadly neglected to the very great prejudice of our denominational views, the dishonor of God, and at the expense of the glorious advancement of his cause. But no means were devised, nor money could be raised to change the aspect of affairs, and it seemed as if many of them would be extinguished. The villages and cities of the east, and the great prairies of the west, produce constant changes among the rural population. The Americans of whom very often the churches are composed, will move to the cities, or the west, and a Foreign population, speaking a different language, will sometimes purchase their farms, or others will settle upon them who take but a little interest in religion, and the most flourishing churches will soon fall into decay. In all parts of our State we have many such examples. And unless missionary work is performed, and great earnestness is manifested in the cause of the Redeemer after a few years the church will be disbanded the meeting-house sold, and our peculiar sentiments be forgotten in the place.

One of the essays that was read before the Institute was transferred by a vote to the Convention, whose session commenced as soon as the Institute closed, which related to the present condition of the denomination in New York, and which resulted with other prominent influences in ordering its Board to appoint six Missionaries for the State, and assign to each of them a given district for a year in which to labor as circumstances may demand. This is a commencement in the right direction. If the home field is neglected, the foreign field will from necessity be abandoned, and our own State has the first and the most imperious claims. It is cheerful to contemplate the hopeful results. No labor can be in vain in the Lord. Many a little church may soon become a thousand. One of the essays delivered before the Institute will soon be printed by our Publication Society in the form of a tract. Its subject is, "Ministerial Efficiency," which was discussed in a very scriptural manner, and should be read by every minister in our land. Its sentiments will meet a full response by all who love Jesus and desire to be successful in promoting his glory. The ministers of your Province would welcome it joyfully, and I hope will enjoy its spiritual profit.

A Sabbath School Convention closed last week at Little Falls, N. Y. This was composed of all the evangelical denominations that are found in the several large counties of which its district is formed. It was good to meet the children of God bearing the distinctive names of their peculiar denominations in a common field of consecrated action. They came together, like the disciples at Pentecost, with one accord, in one place, nor was the presence of the Spirit absent from the assembly. All things were forgotten but the object of meeting and the cause to be promoted. This was the third meeting of the district, and the interest manifested this year was but little short of that which is so delightfully seen at the annual gathering of our State Sabbath School Convention, at which the whole State is so largely represented. It was left that the Sabbath School was next in importance to the family, and the church; and that by it the family was improved, and the church, in her members, her missionaries abroad, and her ministry at home, inexpressibly benefited. There was no disposition to put the Sabbath School, in its organization and importance, before the church as on some other occasions has been seen, but rather to recognize it as one of the most useful means of winning the children to Christ. It was decided that a passion for souls and an entire consecration to the work of securing their salvation were the great prerequisites for a successful teacher. An instance was cited, in which a teacher in Spurgeon's Sabbath School had had his class changed sixteen times, and each new class he had won to his Redeemer. How many teachers have such a record? Most superintendents complained that they could not make a teacher's class a success, much as they felt that such a weekly